

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 MCT-01
ACDA-12 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /122 R

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APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN
AF/S:DPETTERSON
IO/UNP:RLBARRY

-----081078 012335Z /70

O 012242Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052839

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28

REF: USUN 700

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1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR
MARCH 1 NOON BRIEFING ON NUJOMA INTERVIEW (CAPE TOWN
378). QUESTION DID NOT REPEAT NOT COME UP AT MARCH 1
BRIEFING BUT WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF SOUTH AFRICANS
SUCCEED IN GENERATING SOME MEDIA INTEREST IN SUBJECT.

BEGIN TEXT

Q. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE STATEMENT BY SWAPO LEADER SAM NUJOMA (CARRIED FEBRUARY 26 BY SOUTH AFRICAN TELEVISION) THAT SWAPO WAS A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT INTERESTED ONLY IN SEIZING POWER AND UNINTERESTED IN ELECTIONS AND MAJORITY RULE?

A. THE PROPOSAL FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE DEVELOPED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN CONTACT GROUP (THE UK, FRANCE, THE FRG, CANADA AND THE US) HAS AS ITS

CENTERPIECE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS, OPEN TO ALL PARTIES, AND SUPERVISED BY UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS. WE COULD NOT SUPPORT ANY SOLUTION NOT BASED ON FREE ELECTIONS.
END TEXT

2. DEPARTMENT DECIDED THAT, ON BALANCE, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO AVOID ANY DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE OF NUJOMA'S REPORTED COMMENTS OR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUJOMA'S COMMENTS AND CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL. WE WOULD ASSUME THAT AT SOME POINT SWAPO WILL FEEL OBLIGED TO RESPOND TO SOUTH AFRICAN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

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